SUBJECTS.

84. Government and the Press.

Mr. V. Krishna Pillai (Member, Tiruvella Taluk) suggested that Government might take notice of all imputations against official character made in the newspapers, call for explanations and publish the action taken thereon, and that a Press-room be opened in the Huzur Cutcherry, and public opinion invited on important topics. He said that, when public servants failed in their duty and were reported to be acting quite in derogation of their position and education and to the prejudice of public interests, it was nothing but simple justice that a sympathetic Government should welcome the observations in the Press, when it honestly realised and performed the duties of the people's representative. It was painful to note that charges of a grave nature were being publicly made in the Press against officials of high standing. If the charges were *mala fide*, was it not the duty of Government to check such unwarranted license and vindicate the uprightness of its officers? If not, to tolerate such public servants would be to pave the way for the marring of the harmonious relations between the rulers and the ruled.

Dewan's reply.—Government cannot possibly accept the view that, when an attack is made against a public servant in a newspaper, it should be deemed to be a complaint against him and taken notice of accordingly. The suggestion of the member regarding the opening of a Press-room is noted.

85. Retirement of public servants.

Mr. Subramonia Kavayalan (Member, Shencottah Taluk) requested that old public servants who did not know English should be retired from service and others appointed in their places.

Dewan's reply.—Government may be trusted to remove from the public service officers, high or low, who either cannot or will not do their work.

86. Pension to low-paid public servants.

The same member said that it was a hardship to the low-paid public servants that they were not granted pension on retirement.

Dewan's reply.—Government will enquire if the present Pension rules operate hardly on the inferior staff.

87. Disabilities of Eurasians.

Mr. J. A. Gomez of Trivandrum (Member, Nominated) spoke of the disabilities under which the Eurasian or domiciled European community were labouring. The community felt that they were entitled to generous treatment, in consideration of the fact that they were the descendants of those Europeans who, in the past, served successive

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Maha Rajas in various important capacities. As the chief avenue to Government employment in recent years has been the passing of University Examinations, they had been crowded out by other races possessing the special aptitude of passing literary tests. Even in departments where energy, independence, force of character and promptness of decision were more necessary than mere literary skill, they had been steadily ousted. Large numbers of their young men were being forced to seek service elsewhere. He therefore requested that the defect in the educational system be remedied and greater scope and encouragement given to their young men. He also referred to the humiliating treatment accorded to the members of the community in the matter of invitations to public Darbars and State entertainments, in which all communities except theirs were asked to participate. All respectable foreigners and strangers, whether European, Eurasian or Indian, were being invited to such functions; while the members of their community, however high their official or social position might be, were completely ignored if they happened to be born in Travancore, as if it were a disgrace or a crime to be born within its boundaries. Such invidious distinctions did not obtain in British territory and in the sister State of Cochin.

Dewan's reply.—The member's suggestions are noted.

88. *Poor-houses.*

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) suggested that poor-houses be established for the destitute, the blind and the cripple.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestion made by the member will be noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 2 P. M. and met again at 3 P. M.

LOCAL SUBJECTS.

CARDAMOM HILLS DISTRICT.

89. *Periyar bridge and Kanjirapalli-Kumili road.*

Mr. F. W. LeFeuvre (Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association) said that the work on the Periyar bridge had been going on for about 8 years and that his Association would be glad if Government would give them an assurance as to how soon the bridge would be open to cart traffic. The bridge has become a matter of the most vital importance in consequence of the opening and shutting of flood-gates at the Periyar Dam. Without any notice to them, under prevailing conditions, pending the completion of the bridge, they were liable to be completely

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